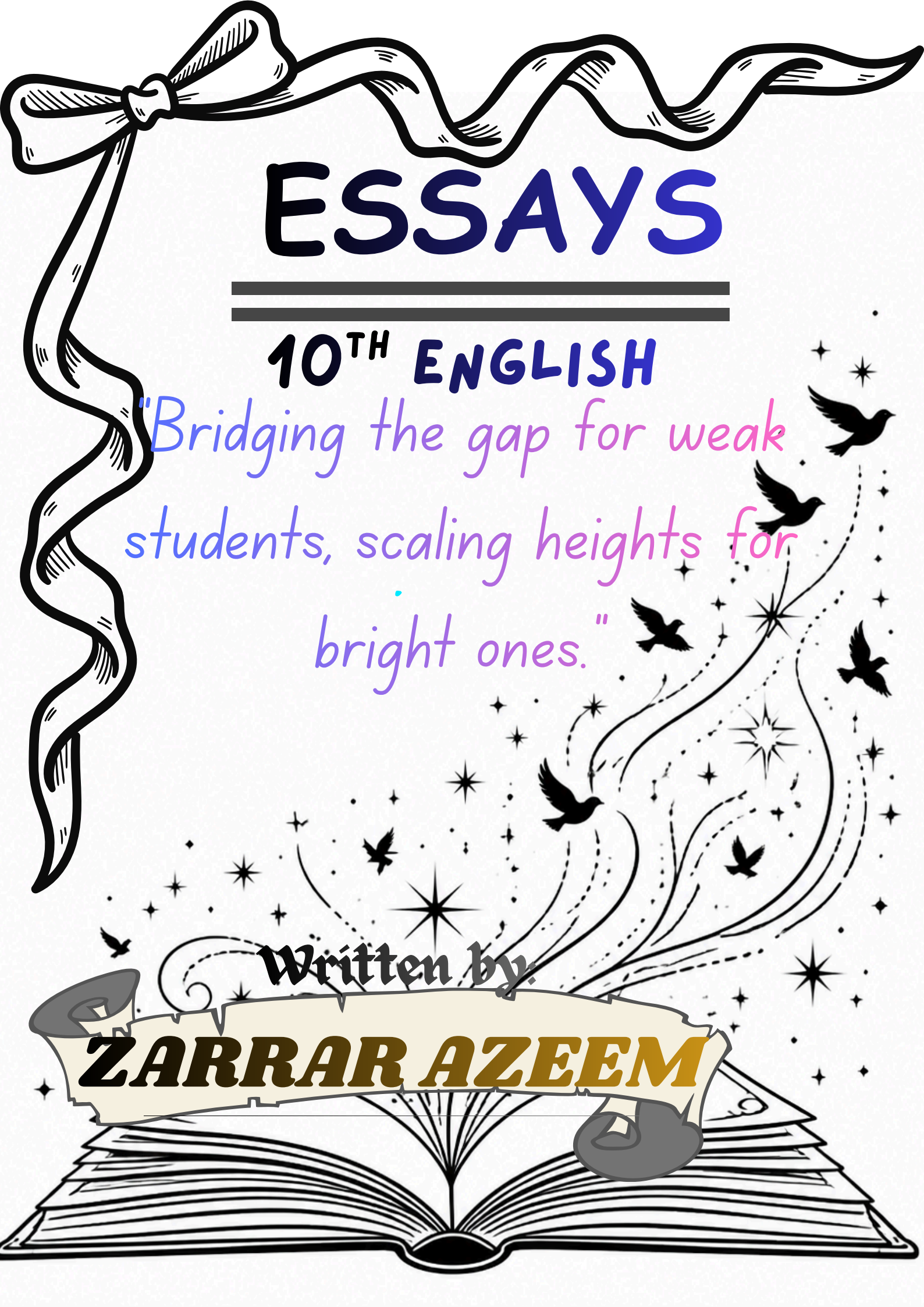
ESSAYS

10TH ENGLISH

"Bridging the gap for weak students, scaling heights for bright ones."



Written by:

ZARRAR AZEEM

Essays

1. MY LAST DAY AT SCHOOL

The memory of my last day at school is quite fresh in my mind. I remember well that it was the 3rd of March, 2019. A function had been arranged in the school to bid us farewell. The students of our class were dressed in their best. We walked up to the school hall, which was tastefully decorated. Tables and seats were arranged for the students and the teachers. As we entered the hall, the students of the 9th class welcomed us with cheers. We took our seats and the programme started. Our Headmaster presided over the function.

"Every ending has a new beginning. We do not remember days, we remember memories."

The function started with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Then the monitor of the 9th class read out the farewell address. I replied to this address on behalf of the students of the 10th class. I thanked the students of the 9th class for arranging a grand party. I then expressed my sense of gratitude to our headmaster and teachers, who were always kind and nice to us. After this, a group of students sang a farewell song. All eyes were wet with tears.

"A school is a place where we enter with a blank mind and leave with an ocean of memories and lifelong lessons."

Last of all, the headmaster rose from his seat. There was clapping on all sides. He made a brief speech. He praised our behaviour and performance in curricular and co-curricular activities. He gave us many pieces of advice and prayed for our bright future. Then we were photographed. This was the last item of the function.

"Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead. Step out and shine."

Then we were served with hot tea, samosas, cakes, and fruit. This brought the function to an end. I bade farewell to my school and went home.

"Goodbyes are not the end, they simply mean I will miss you until we meet again."

It was indeed a memorable day in my life. I shall always remember my last day at school.

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"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

2. SPORTS AND GAMES

Games and sports are essential for students. Nobody can deny the importance of games for them. Games or sports are the food of the body, as knowledge is the food of the mind. Games keep us active, alert, and smart.

"A healthy body holds a healthy mind, and sports are the ultimate fuel for both."

Games and sports teach us the spirit of sportsmanship. A good player does not boast when his team is winning. Similarly, he does not lose heart if his team is losing the game. So, games teach us the spirit of patience and courage.

"True sportsmanship is not about winning every game; it is about having the patience to endure defeat and the courage to try again."

Games and sports teach us a sense of discipline. The captain of the team learns to lead his players just like a general who leads his soldiers in war. Similarly, the players also learn to obey their leader just like disciplined soldiers. Thus, a player learns to respect rules throughout life.

"Discipline built on the playing field becomes the foundation for victory in life."

Games are a very good source of recreation and enjoyment. Games refresh the body as well as the mind of the player. A healthy mind is necessary for students. It is a well-known proverb that a sound mind resides in a sound body. So, to keep our bodies healthy, games are necessary.

"Recreation through sports untangles the stressed mind, reviving its strength to conquer new academic heights."

It is, therefore, vital that our government tries its best to popularise games across the country. Students should be taught the value of games at the grassroots level. They should be encouraged to play regularly and improve their skills. Only in this way can we train good players and, consequently, good citizens.

"Gold medals aren't really made of gold. They are made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts."

3. MY HOUSE

A house is a place of absolute protection for us. It gives shelter in rough weather. We cannot find peace in any place except home. It is a great blessing of God for us.

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"Home is where love resides, memories are created, friends always belong, and laughter never ends."

I live in a house situated in Makah Town. Previously, it was an ordinary locality, but now it has turned into a posh area. Marble houses are now quite common in this locality, but my house is made of bricks. Although my house is built of bricks, it is well-plastered and has beautiful, smooth floors and walls. The walls are whitewashed, and the doors and windows are well-polished.

"A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with loving dreams."

It is a spacious house containing six rooms, and it is fitted with electricity. All the rooms are airy and well-lit. The drawing room has a costly carpet, some chairs, and a pair of sofa sets. There are also beautiful pictures and a long row of black-and-white portraits of our late forefathers on its walls. There are five bedrooms with attached bathrooms. We have a very busy kitchen. My house is often crowded with the blessings of God—our guests. We enjoy their company and remain very happy with them.

"The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it."

My house has a big courtyard with a water pump in it. There is a pretty lawn in the yard featuring flower plants, fruit trees, green grass, and creepers. The branches of the climbers remain laden with flowers of different kinds and colours.

"Peace, like charity, begins at home, surrounded by the sweet embrace of nature."

It is said that your house is your paradise. No doubt, a house is a great blessing. It is a place of rest and respite after tiresome pursuits outside the home.

"There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort."

4. COURTESY

Courtesy means gentle and polite behaviour in dealing with others in our day-to-day life.

"Courtesy is a science of the highest importance; it opens doors that no other key can fit."

A courteous person is always modest and polite when talking to and behaving with others. He has tender feelings and good wishes for his fellow men.

"Politeness is the flower of humanity; he who is not polite is not human."

We should adopt courtesy in both our domestic and social lives. When we meet one another, we should exchange words of prayer and good wishes.

"Life is short, but there is always time for courtesy."

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Courtesy costs nothing but pays a lot in return. A courteous person is liked and loved by all. This type of man remains very popular among his friends and relatives. Actually, this is the usual practice of godly souls and spirits. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said, "The best amongst you is the one whose manners are the best" i

"Good manners will open doors which the best education cannot."

Elders, seniors, and parents have a big role to play in making our society and nation courteous. They should lead by example with good behaviour and courtesy toward youngsters, subordinates, and children. Teachers also have a great role in moulding our students onto the right path of courtesy.

"A small act of courtesy can cast a beautiful reflection of virtue onto the entire world."

5. LIBRARIES

A school without a library is unthinkable these days. A library has books on various subjects, newspapers, journals, and magazines. Students, especially those who want to add to their knowledge, go to the library during their vacant periods to study there. It greatly adds to their knowledge.

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."

My school also has a big library, which is housed in a large hall. There are many cupboards in it. Each cupboard contains books on one subject only. Books are arranged systematically according to their catalogued numbers.

"To build up a library is to create a witness to the value of human existence."

There are different catalogues for the books. All catalogues are kept at the counter of the library. It is easy for students to consult the catalogue there. Books are issued on cards. No student can keep a book for more than fourteen days, and defaulters are fined.

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."

There is a reading room attached to the library, furnished with long tables and benches. Students sit there to read newspapers, journals, and magazines; some take notes. The library also has reference books and textbooks. These are meant for studying inside the library only.

"Books are a uniquely portable magic that connects us across space and time."

Although many students go to the library, it remains a place of complete silence. Nobody is permitted to talk or disturb others. There is no noise here; everybody treats it

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as a sacred place. The calm and quiet atmosphere of the library helps students work attentively.

"In the silence of a library, the greatest minds of history speak to those who listen."

6. HEALTH

'Health is wealth' is a world-famous proverb. A healthy body is defined by the overall ability of the body to function well. It includes the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of an individual. Health is the most reassuring asset of a human being and a true boon from God. It makes life enjoyable, profitable, and worthwhile. Good health is a great treasure.

"He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything."

Material wealth, in the form of money and facilities, is necessary for comfortable living. However, no amount of wealth can compensate for poor health. A sick person can never hope to be happy and successful. A man suffering from ill-health is miserable; his life is a woe, full of moans. An unhealthy person has no spirit, drive, or desire to make an effort to achieve anything. In fact, a sick man dares not dream or set any goals for life because he lacks the energy and willpower to work for their realisation. A person devoid of health is like a living corpse.

"To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear."

If we wish to enjoy good health, we should exercise regularly, eat simple food, take proper rest, and try to maintain peace of mind. We can find peace of mind by praying to Allah. Such prayers can heal our sickness and console our minds.

"A quiet mind brings inward strength and self-confidence, which is vital for good health."

We should get up early in the morning, brush our teeth, and take a bath daily. Meals should be taken at a regular time. Overeating is dangerous to health. Incorporating fruit into our daily diet is highly beneficial. Clean clothes, good habits, and an unpolluted atmosphere are very essential for our health.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to preserving our physical vitality."

"Your body is a temple, keep it pure and clean for the soul to reside in."

7. A RAINY DAY

There was intense heat during the summer. Hot winds blew, making it difficult to venture out into the burning weather. Suddenly, the day grew dark as the sky became

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overcast with heavy clouds. A cool breeze blew, and it started raining. Every heart was filled with delight. When the rain stopped, the clouds sailed across the sky. The sun showed its face rather timidly, seeming frightened by the sudden change that had come over nature. Soon, the sun hid again, and a majestic rainbow made its appearance. Its beautiful colours lent a charm to the dull background of the sky.

"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain and enjoy the music of nature."

The children began to float paper boats in the running water. How joyfully they shouted when their boats sank or were carried away by the rushing current!

"Joy is like a sudden shower of rain, washing clean the dusty windows of the world."

Everything in nature took on a fresh look after the rain. The grass, which looked withered in the summer heat just a day before, raised its head proudly. It swayed to and fro when the wind blew. The cuckoo sang its sweet songs from the mango trees, hailing the rain. How sweet were its melodies!

"Like rain to a parched land, a fresh breeze restores life to everything it touches."

Trees and plants were thoroughly bathed in rainwater, looking gay and green. Animals and birds also enjoyed the shower. The frogs made a very pleasant noise after the downpour, starting to croak in unison.

"Nature paints for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty if only we have eyes to see them."

On the whole, a rainy day in summer is generally full of joy. It was thrilling to move about on a refreshing day like this.

"After the heaviest showers of rain, the earth smiles once again with renewed glory."

8. A SCENE AT A RAILWAY STATION

A railway station is a very busy place, acting as a centre of immense activity. The parking lot, the huge entrance, and all the platforms are consistently full of people.

"The railway station is a small world in itself, where thousands of paths cross for a fleeting moment."

There is always a large crowd on the platform. Men, women, and children of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life can be seen here. People run to and fro from one platform to another. Some can be observed standing at the ticket counter, browsing bookstalls, or gathering around the food stalls. In certain areas, one can hear the cries

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of restless children, while others can be seen troubling their parents. Due to a lack of available seats, many ladies, children, and men resort to sitting on their own luggage.

"In the rush of a station, we see the hustle of human life journeying toward unknown destinations."

Several stalls are operating on the platform. Some stalls sell light refreshments, while others sell the latest books, magazines, and newspapers. There is also a stall selling fresh fruit. A major rush can always be found at the tea stall, while cold drinks, tea, coffee, and snacks remain available everywhere. Several passengers can be seen contentedly sipping tea at these stalls.

"Every arrival brings hope, and every departure leaves a memory whispered in the stream."

As soon as the announcement regarding the arrival of a train is made, a wave of great activity ripples through the station. The moment the train grinds to a halt, all passengers seem to be in a frantic hurry either to disembark or to board. They are constantly worried lest they should miss their train. In the heavy rush, children cling tightly to their parents.

"Time waits for no one, and nowhere is this truer than on a crowded railway platform."

When the train finally leaves, the dense crowd melts away. Soon, all the frantic activity, which had built up so rapidly just a little while ago, comes to a sudden end. All the hustle and bustle dissipates in a few minutes, leaving the platform looking like a completely deserted place.

"The silence that follows a departing train is a quiet reminder of life's shifting currents."

9. A HOCKEY MATCH

Last Sunday, I saw a very interesting hockey match. It was played between the Government. High School and Divisional Public School. A large number of students and teachers had come out to watch the game. The referee blew a long whistle, and the captains of both teams stepped forward. A coin was tossed in the air; Govt. High School won the toss and chose their preferred side.

"In sports, as in life, the first step to victory is positioning yourself on the right side of the field."

Both teams were dressed smartly in their respective uniforms. The match commenced promptly at 3 p.m. It was quite brisk right from the very beginning. The Govt. The high school team pressed hard but initially could not score a goal. They secured two short corners but failed to convert them. Their centre-forward moved at an amazing speed,

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but he was repeatedly checked by the robust full-backs of the competitors. Neither side could penetrate the defence, leaving the first half completely eventless.

"A tough defence wins championships, proving that patience is a player's greatest asset."

After the half-time interval, the teams switched sides, and the game resumed with renewed vigour. The players of Divisional Public School earned a short corner and successfully scored a goal. Shouts of pure joy erupted from the supporters of Divisional Public School as sticks went flying up into the air. However, during the next few minutes, the Government. High School retaliated and scored an equalising goal. Shouts of joy from the Govt. The High School side quickly dominated the sky.

"True champions don't falter under pressure; they meet a challenge with equal force and determination."

Now, the game has become significantly more interesting. The players of the Government. High School rushed forward aggressively. Their captain played brilliantly; he ran with the ball straight into the 'D' and hit it hard. However, the goalkeeper of the rivals was exceptionally active and alert. He blocked the ball cleanly and thus foiled the strategic attempts of the rival team, drawing loud cheers from the spectators.

"The strength of the team is each member, and the strength of each member is the team."

The regular time was almost over. Each side tried desperately hard to win the game, but all their efforts came to nought. The referee blew his long whistle and declared that regular time was up. They were given extra time to break the deadlock. Now, each side pushed with all its might to score a definitive goal, but neither team could succeed. Thus, the well-contested match ended in an honourable draw.

10. A CRICKET MATCH

Once, I went to Karachi to see a friend of mine. Luckily, a "one-day cricket match" was to be played between the Pakistani cricket team and the Indian cricket team. We bought the tickets in advance. On the appointed day, we reached the stadium well in time.

"Cricket is a pressure game, and when it comes to an India-Pakistan match, the pressure is doubled."

Our team won the toss and elected to bat first. The Indian players were very happy and excited when they got two important wickets at an early stage. It was 50 overs only. After the 25th over, our players became very aggressive. They played beautiful strokes.

"Sportsmanship is not just about winning; it is about playing the game with passion and respect."

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At the end of the innings, Pakistan had scored 255 runs for the loss of five players. After lunch, the Indian team opened very carefully and scored 35 in 10 overs. They went on playing and reached 245 in 39 overs at the loss of 9 wickets. They required 11 runs to win.

"A match is never won until the final ball is bowled and the last run is scored."

But Shahid Afridi was outstanding.

"In cricket, as in life, the true test of character is how you handle the final overs."

Thereafter, we came back to our homes.

"Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn."

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11. A TRUE MUSLIM

The followers of Islam are called Muslims. A Muslim who sincerely acts upon all the teachings of Islam is called a true Muslim. He has a firm belief in Allah and His last Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). It is his faith that Allah is the Creator of everything in the universe. He also believes in angels, the Holy Books, the Prophets of God, the Day of Judgement and the life hereafter. He observes prayers, keeps fasts, pays Zakat and other Islamic taxes, and performs Hajj if he can. He leads a simple and pure life. He avoids evil actions.

"The strongest faith is recorded in the simplest of deeds and the purest of hearts."

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A true Muslim is good at heart, true to his word and honest in the performance of his duties. He does not harm the other members of society. They are safe from his hands and tongue.

"A true Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe."

He does not discriminate against people of different castes and creeds, but respects their beliefs. In the same way, he behaves well with his subjects and servants.

"To be a true Muslim is to shine as a beacon of truth, honesty, and kindness to all humanity."

A true Muslim never tells a lie and avoids backbiting. He does not injure anyone's feelings. He treats his neighbours well and establishes friendly relations with them.

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character."

He meets others with a smiling face because he knows that it is the very first good character trait of a true Muslim. In fact, these are a few qualities of the great character of a true Muslim. He is better than an angel if he is a true Muslim.

"Cricket matches are not about losing and winning, it is about enjoying."

12. CITY LIFE

City Life is a blend of charms and vices. It provides all modern amenities, which make the lives of the people very comfortable and pleasant.

"The city is not a concrete jungle; it is a human zoo."

In a city, people have better educational facilities. There are many schools, colleges, universities and technical institutions for the people. Medical facilities are also easily available in the city. The government runs several dispensaries, hospitals and maternity homes. Besides, there are other private clinics also run by doctors and specialists.

"Modern cities are mirrors of human advancement, reflecting both our greatest triumphs and deepest struggles."

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The people living in big cities can keep themselves well-informed on local, national and international levels. They can go to libraries. Newspapers and magazines are within easy reach of every man in these libraries. Things of daily use are easily available to the people of the city. There are big shops, stores and supermarkets in a big city. On the social side, there are theatres, cinemas and entertainment of all kinds. Living in a city, people can go to playgrounds, parks, theatres, cinemas and hotels.

"City life provides the sparks of progress, but it demands the price of peace."

At the same time, life in a big city is not without its shortcomings. Most of the facilities mentioned above are enjoyed by well-off people. Most of the educational, medical and recreational facilities are out of the reach of the common people.

"A great city is not defined by its skyscrapers, but by how it cares for its common citizens."

Everybody cannot send their children to any school or college he likes. Pollution is the major problem of today's world. It is more severe in cities than in villages. Pure food is also not easily available, which affects the health of the city's people. Despite all these problems, city life is full of the charms and facilities of the modern age.

"In the hustle of the city, one finds endless opportunities but loses the quiet of the soul."

13. VILLAGE LIFE

Village life offers a simple picture of life. A typical Pakistani village is situated away from the noise of a city. It is a peaceful and silent place. It is full of natural beauty.

"God made the country, and man made the town."

There are green trees, vast meadows and flowery bushes in every village. The blossoming flowers, fragrant air, and the rising and setting sun all leave a healthy influence on the life of the village.

"The village is a panorama of the charming scenery of nature."

The village people eat pure and wholesome food. The air is fresh and pure. There is no smoke from the chimneys of factories and mills. Fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, milk and butter are available; they enjoy good health and live long.

"In the sweetness of the village air, the soul finds its true sanctuary."

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The village people are religious-minded. They say their prayers regularly. They keep fasting in spite of their hard life. They celebrate religious festivals with great zeal and zest. The village people play very simple but healthy games. Kabaddi, wrestling, races, football, and volleyball are the games generally played in villages. Fairs, festivals and marriages are their special occasions of rejoicing, merrymaking, dancing and singing.

"A village is a place where people still care about other lives."

Village life, however, is not without its drawbacks. Muddy water surrounds every village. They do not have advanced medical facilities. Education is also not very common in the villages. A majority of the people living in the villages are uneducated and superstitious. But in spite of all these problems, village life is simple and comfortable, as it offers a beautiful panorama of the charming scenery of nature.

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication, and village life is its purest expression."

14. TELEVISION

Television occupies an important place in our lives. Television has many benefits in this age. It is one of the most effective forms of communication. It broadcasts news, both at local and global levels, to ensure that all individuals are kept updated.

"Television is a window to the world, bringing global realities into our living rooms."

Television is a source that provides everyone with a lot of entertainment. There are dramas, cartoons and sports channels which are a great source of recreation.

"Recreation is essential, but when entertainment becomes an addiction, it robs us of our precious time."

Television is also very useful to educate the masses as it presents educational programmes. Children can learn important values about themselves and life from the various programmes that they watch on television. Television also helps increase creativity. People can find new ways of solving the problems of life.

"A powerful medium of communication, television shapes the thoughts and values of a generation."

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However, there are also some disadvantages of television. Watching too much television is not good for one's health. Advertisers often target kids with unhealthy snack foods. Television can ruin relationships. Watching television instead of communicating with loved ones is a problem.

"Too much television fills the mind with noise while emptying the life of action."

Students waste their precious time watching television for long hours. Most social evils are the product of these electronic devices. The youth start reacting to what they watch on television.

"Television can educate and inspire, but only if we master the screen instead of letting it master us."

Television has become an essential household item.

15. A VISIT TO A HILL STATION

During the summer vacation, I chalked out a programme with my friends to spend a few days in Murree. We left for Murree at night in a new and air-conditioned bus. Early in the morning, we reached Islamabad. We offered the Fajar prayer in Faisal Mosque.

"In every journey up the hills, one finds a serene escape from the chaotic life of the plains."

After breakfast, we left for Murree. During the journey to the Murree hills, we enjoyed the enchanting scenes all around. We reached Murree at 2 p.m. the same day.

"The mountains are calling, and I must go."

We stayed in a hotel. After having rested there for a while, we decided to visit the most important and popular part of Murree, "Mall Road". It was crowded with a lot of people. We enjoyed the hustle and bustle on the Mall till late at night. The next day, after breakfast, we got ready and came out to enjoy the fascinating scenes of the Murree hills. The air was so cool and pleasant. The whole scenery of the place was really charming.

"Nature always wears the colours of the spirit, especially on the heights of a hill station."

The next day, we planned to visit 'Patriata'. After an hour's journey, we reached there. It was a novel experience for us. The view beneath seemed to be a fairyland.

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"Beautiful memories of nature's fairyland remain etched in the heart forever."

In the afternoon, we planned to visit Kashmir Point. It was covered with fruit and pine trees, where we could see a lot of carefree monkeys jumping from one branch of a tree to another. The next morning, we left Murree for our hometown.

"A walk among the pine trees and cool mountain air is the perfect remedy for a weary soul."

The memories of this trip will remain fresh in my mind for a long time.

16. QUAID-E-AZAM / MY NATIONAL HERO / MY FAVOURITE PERSONALITY

Quaid-e-Azam is my favourite personality. He is our national hero and the founder of Pakistan. His name is Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He was born in Karachi on December 25, 1876.

"Character, courage, and iron will are the hallmarks of a leader who changes the map of the world."

He received his early education in Karachi. After his Matriculation, he went to England for higher studies. He was called to the Bar at the age of seventeen. He distinguished himself over there and returned to India as a barrister. He started practice first in Karachi and then in Bombay. He made his mark as a lawyer.

"Failure is a word unknown to men who are determined to make their dreams a reality."

He began his political career in 1906 when he joined the Indian National Congress. But soon he realised that by freedom the Hindus meant "Hindu Raj" in United India. So, he left Congress and joined the All India Muslim League in 1913. In 1934, he became the President of the Muslim League and reorganised it. He organised the party on the Two-Nation Theory. He made the world realise that the Hindus and the Muslims are two separate nations. Their religions and customs are different from each other.

"Think a hundred times before you make a decision, but once that decision is taken, stand by it as one man."

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On March 23, 1940, at the historic session of the Muslim League in Lahore, the Pakistan Resolution was passed. It was by his untiring efforts that the dream of Pakistan became a reality on August 14, 1947. The Quaid was its first Governor-General.

"With faith, discipline, and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve."

Alas, he did not live long to steer the boat of this weak nation. He died in harness on September 11, 1948.

"A hero has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

17. ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL

Sir Allama Muhammad Iqbal is my favourite poet. He was born in Sialkot in 1877. He got his early education from able teachers like Maulvi Mir Hassan and Sir Arnold. He passed the Intermediate examination from Murray College, Sialkot. Then he got admission to Government College, Lahore. After doing Bar-at-Law in England and then a PhD in Germany, he came back and started his practice in law, but soon he left it. He was pained much to see the Muslims in the chains of slavery. His poetic ambition was fired, and he started writing verses.

"Words without power are mere noise; poetry with a vision can wake an entire empire."

His early poetry deals with children, nature, and love for his country. In his early poems like "Kashmir", he wrote about birds, mountains, hills, streams and beautiful scenes of Nature. Then his poetry became more and more mature. He earned a good reputation as a poet. His most famous books of poetry are Bang-e-Dara, Bal-e-Jibreel and Zarb-e-Kalim.

"Khudi (Selfhood) is the secret of the self, a flame that elevates man to his divine potential."

Through his poetry, he awoke the sleepy nation. He reminded them of their glorious past.

"He was a visionary whose verses infused a new soul into a slumbering nation."

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He was the only Muslim who gave the concrete idea of Pakistan, and then our Quaid, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, turned his dream into reality. This great poet left us sobbing in 1938.

"Rise above sectional interests and private ambitions."

We are greatly indebted to this great poet who changed the course of our history.

"The ultimate aim of the ego is not to see something, but to be something."

18. BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scout Movement was first introduced in 1908 by Sir Baden Powell in the British Isles. The movement aims to mould the youth into good citizens.

"True citizenship begins with selfless service, discipline, and a commitment to help others at all times."

Each scout is trained to obey the Scout Laws. All scouts promise to carry out the Scout Laws. Their motto is "Be ready". They are ever ready to do good to others. They are clean in thoughts, words and deeds. They are also loyal to their country.

"The scout master guides the youth, not by command, but by leading the way."

The Scout Movement consists of three groups: (i) Wolf Cubs: Scouts of 8 years up to 11 years, (ii) Boy Scouts: Scouts of 11 years up to 17 years, and (iii) Rover Scouts: Scouts of 17 years and above. Camping is an important part of a scout's training. In camping, a scout learns the use of an axe, knife and hammer. He knows how to peg a tent. He learns how to work and live with others. He learns how to cooperate and how to compete. He learns cooking, hiking, tracking, signalling and other useful skills during camping.

"A scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens."

He also gets training in first aid and does a lot of useful work in times of emergency, like floods and war. His morals are without a blemish. He remains eager to help the injured, the poor, the needy and the handicapped people.

"A life spent helping the needy and serving the nation is a life lived with honour."

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He is firm, stable and noble in command and control. He keeps himself away from petty pursuits. He becomes courteous, social, cultured and civilised.

"To leave the world a little better than you found it is the ultimate duty of a true scout."

19. MY FAVOURITE BOOK

No doubt, all books are valuable, but not all are favourites. I have studied several books on different topics and branches of knowledge, and I deem every page of good books a treasure of knowledge. But the book that impressed me the most and that, I think, is the gist and essence of all the disciplines of knowledge and guidance is the Book of Allah ---- **The Holy Quran**.

"The Quran is a book of guidance, a proof of the right way, and a distinguisher between right and wrong."

The Holy Quran gives guidance on all the topics of life. It is a complete code of life. Its author is no human being. Allah himself is the author of this book. It was revealed to the last Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.). It is written in Arabic. Its language is very forceful and effective.

"The Holy Quran is a fountainhead of knowledge, an ocean of wisdom, and a guide for all mankind."

This is a book of guidance for all times and for all places in the world. It can meet all the challenges at all times. People who follow it and act upon its golden principles are successful both in this life and the life hereafter.

"A room without books is like a body without a soul, but a life without the Quran is a soul without light."

This book is not only my favourite book but also the favourite book of all Muslims in the world. They recite it daily. Allah is pleased with its recitation. This is the most widely read book in the world. Not only Muslims but also non-Muslims study it to seek guidance.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors"

May Allah enable us to understand the Holy Quran and act upon it! Ameen.

"To read the Quran is to converse with the Creator, finding solace for the heart and direction for the soul."

20. MY AIM IN LIFE

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An aimless life is useless. A person without an aim is just like a ship that sails in the sea but does not know where to go. So, it never reaches its destination. Similarly, a man without aim achieves nothing in life.

"The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

Everyone in this world has their own likes and dislikes. So, different people have different aims. My aim in life has always been changing. But now, I have made up my mind to become a teacher.

"Teaching is not a profession; it's a passion to cultivate minds and touch the future."

Teaching has many advantages over other professions. First of all, it is a noble profession. A teacher takes the masses from the darkness to light and from ignorance to knowledge.

"A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others."

A teacher is the storehouse of knowledge and information. He is the well of wisdom. He gives the gems from his mind to his students. The words of wit and wisdom are far more valuable than all the riches of the world. Everyone can profit from it.

"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau."

A teacher is the builder of a nation. It is he who moulds the characters of tender children. He creates in them the noble qualities of service and lives for the people.

"Moulding the destiny of a nation happens within the four walls of a classroom."

A teacher takes a lot of interest in his students. He tries to know their difficulties and helps them solve them. He not only teaches the textbooks but also becomes their friend and guides them in all matters related to their life. A teacher knows the difficulties of his students and tries to remove them. If a student is weak in his subject, he helps him. If a student is intelligent, he encourages him to gather more and more knowledge.

21. MY HOBBY

Hobby is a useful work which is done in one's spare time for the sake of pleasure and enjoyment. A hobby is very important in our lives. It keeps a person active, busy and happy. There are many hobbies like gardening, stamp-collecting, coin-collecting, fishing, swimming, photography, reading, ng etc.

"A hobby a day keeps the doldrums away, giving the soul a chance to breathe."

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My favourite hobby is gardening. We have a spacious ground attached to our house. I have developed this open space into a beautiful garden. I always devote my free time to the upkeep of my beautiful garden.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

My garden is full of sweet-smelling and beautiful flowers. The blooming flowers of different colours greatly enhance the beauty of my garden. After working for a few hours in my lovely garden, I feel highly relaxed so that I can do my other work with greater interest and efficiency. I am really proud of my garden, which is admired by all who visit it.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature."

My hobby gives me immense pleasure. Whenever I am very tired of my routine work, I just go to my garden, cast a glance over the beautiful flowers and my heart blossoms. I lie there on the green grass, and I feel very active and smart again. If I had no hobbies, I would have missed this joy and fun.

"From the gardens of plants do I move towards the gardens of inner joy."

Accomplishing a beautiful garden is a great goal that brings absolute tranquillity to a busy life.

"In the garden of life, a creative hobby is the sweetest blossom of all."

22. OUR SCHOOL CANTEEN

There is a canteen in almost all the good schools. It is a place of attraction and charm for children. This is the most crowded place in the recess period. Our school canteen is situated in one corner of the school.

"The school canteen is the heart of student chatter, where friendships are fueled, and memories are made."

The canteen comprises several rooms for the pantry, a contractor and his servants. Besides, there is a big hall where there is a large showcase in which all the preparations are displayed. In the hall, there are chairs and tables in large numbers. There are also separate small rooms for teachers. **“Breakfast with good food and great friends is the ultimate highlight of a school day."**

In the canteen, we can get sweets, fast food items of all kinds, which include sandwiches, rolls, burgers and cold drinks, ks etc. However, the thing which has the maximum demand is the tea with samosas.

"Simple meals eaten with a joyful heart taste sweeter than any grand feast."

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The contractor of the canteen is a kind and jolly man. But he is very strict with workers. He takes great pains to see that the eatables are prepared hygienically.

"Health and hygiene are the first steps to happiness, especially when it comes to the food we share."

A school canteen ensures quick service to its customers. A school canteen committee makes surprise visits to the canteen to test the quality and rate of food.

"A well-managed canteen is not just about food; it is about building a healthy community."

Our canteen is a place of fun and enjoyment. We really enjoy the company of our friends during the recess period.

23. MY BEST FRIEND

Blessed are those who have a best friend in life. A best friend is nothing less than a precious gem. I am lucky to have several friends. I love all of them. But Yasir is my best friend. He comes from a respectable family. Allah Almighty has blessed him with several fine habits. He is active and bright. He is soft-spoken and always has a smile on his face. He is very punctual. He is obedient and respectful. He does not waste his time in idle talk. He is honest and fair. He wears simple clothes. His dress is always clean. He never believes in cheating others.

"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who has found one has found a treasure."

Yasir always surpasses in his studies. He is always first in our class. He is a past master of the English language. He speaks very fluently and writes well.

"True friendship multiplies the good in life and divides its evils."

He is also very particular about his health. He gets up early in the morning and goes out for a walk. He takes light exercise regularly.

"A best friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

His ambition in life is to become a teacher. He wants to be a real teacher, a benefactor of students and a storehouse of knowledge. I am sure that his ambition will be fulfilled one day.

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."

He stands by me through thick and thin. He never deserts me in time of need. He is ready to make any sacrifice for me. I am proud of him. May he live long!

"A true friend is one soul dwelling in two bodies, reflecting loyalty, trust, and timeless support."

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24. MY SCHOOL.

I study at the Muslim High School. It is situated outside the city. Its building is 'S' shaped. It has two storeys. There are about forty rooms in it. All the rooms are clean and airy. The rooms are whitewashed. Every classroom has two ceiling fans.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

It has a big ball in it. Meetings and examinations are held in it. My school also has a library. We read newspapers and magazines there. We can borrow books for a week.

"A school is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside."

There is a science laboratory in it. There is an art room in it. There are two playgrounds in my school. The plot attached to the school building is very beautiful. It has green grass and fragrant flowers.

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."Forty teachers teach in my school. All of them are hard-working. The headmaster is a very able and experienced person.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher."

My school shows 100% results every year. I am proud of being a student of this school.

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul."

25. PICNIC SPOTS

As human beings, we need recreation when we get tired or fed up with our daily routine. Then we need such an activity. We make plans to go for a picnic when the weather is pleasant. Students go on a picnic during their vacation. Families make plans for it on the weekends. Mostly, we visit historical places because it is always useful and valuable for us. It is a great source of reminding us of our glorious past and giving us great knowledge. It widens our vision as a great source of information, education and character building.

"Deep in nature, one finds a serene escape that restores the weary mind."

There are many picnic spots in Lahore, like Shalamar Gardens, Lahore Fort, Jahangir Tomb, Kamran Bara Dari, Greater Iqbal Park, Jillani Park, Jallo Park, Allama Iqbal Park, Jinnah Garden, etc. These picnic points attract a great number of tourists. If we discuss these picnic spots, then the Fironeber comes to the Shalamar Gardens. It is a historical place and famous for its beauty and grandeur.

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"To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles of ancient architecture and design."

We like to visit such spots which are close to nature and full of fascination in their design. As tourists come to know about the past history, architecture and glory of the past.

"A picnic is more than just eating outdoors; it is an appreciation of life's simplest pleasures."

The Greater Iqbal Park is a famous picnic spot because it has the Minar-e-Pakistan, restaurants and other attractive things to see in it for all of us.

"In the hustle of modern life, a quiet moment under the open sky is the ultimate luxury."

Today, tourism has become an industry throughout the world. Every government provides maximum facilities to tourists. So, going for a picnic is a healthy activity which keeps us fresh and provides us with a source of entertainment.

"Recreation is not the highest ingredient of a pure life, but it is a necessary ground for it."

THE END

ZARRAR AZEEM